

Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 JUSE-00 VO-05 CA-01 INSE-00
H-01 AID-05 L-03 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /046 R

DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:LSCHMERORN/D
APPROVED BY HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN
EA/ROC:DPARADIS (SUBSTANCE)
EA/RA:FBENNETT (DRAFT)

-----012725 040053Z /73

O 032347Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113198

FOR VP'S PARTY (ATTN: HOLBROOKE/OAKLEY)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, RTG, ROC

SUBJECT: THIRD COUNTRY REFUGEE ACCEPTANCE - TAIWAN

REF: TAIPEI 2005

1. HA/ORM AND EA/ROC JUDGE IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT
RECENT PUBLICITY ABOUT ACCEPTANCE BY THE PRC OF CONSIDERABLE
NUMBERS OF ETHNIC CHINESE FROM VIETNAM WILL ALTER THE
POSITION OF THE ROC ON ADMITTING INDOCHINESE REFUGEES TO
TAIWAN.

2. SINCE APRIL 1975 THE ROC HAS RESETTLED APPROXIMATELY
5,900 REFUGEES, OF WHOM 3,900 ARRIVED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
THE FALL OF VIETNAM AND ANOTHER 1,000 WERE STUDENTS IN
TAIWAN WHO WERE NOT FORCED TO RETURN TO VIETNAM.

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3. IN APRIL, IN RESPONSE TO APPROACHES MADE BY US OFFICIALS,
ROC INFORMED OUR EMBASSY THAT IT WILL GIVE TEMPORARY SHELTER
TO REFUGEES ARRIVING IN TAIWAN IN SMALL BOATS, THOSE

PICKED UP AT SEA BY CHINESE SHIPS, AND THOSE OF CHINESE
ORIGIN PICKED UP AT SEA BY FOREIGN SHIPS SCHEDULED TO MAKE
THEIR FIRST PORT OF CALL IN TAIWAN. MOREOVER, ALL BOAT

REFUGEES OF CHINESE ORIGIN WHO ARRIVE IN TAIWAN WILL BE
ALLOWED TO RESETTLE THERE IF THEY WISH. THE ROC WILL ALSO

CONSIDER INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION FROM INDO-
CHINESE REFUGEES OF CHINESE ORIGIN IN THAILAND. WHILE
THIS IS A SLIGHT ADVANCE OVER PREVIOUS UNRECEPTIVE
POSITION OF ROC, WE BELIEVE IT IS LARGELY COSMETIC IN
RESPONSE TO USG PRESSURE AND UNLIKELY TO RESULT IN ANY
SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF NEW RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES.
OBVIOUSLY, HOWEVER, REFUGEE FIELD COORDINATOR IN BANGKOK
SHOULD CONTINUE TO WORK WITH ROC REPRESENTATIVES IN
THAILAND TO SEEK MAXIMUM ROC ACCEPTANCES. CHRISTOPHER

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